

and founder and executive director of Teach2Serve, a nonprofit that trains select high school students for careers in public policy and nonprofits. He lives in Bucks County, Pa.

1982 David Broder was named vice speaker of the House of Delegates of the American Osteopathic Association. An internist in the Long Island, N.Y., town of Melville, David also serves as president and CEO of the New York Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Educational Consortium. . . .

John Murphy is the director of the newly established office of cyber and infrastructure analysis at the Department of Homeland Security. He writes: "My team leads the federal government's effort to understand the consequences of disruptions to the nation's critical infrastructure via detailed analysis, modeling, and simulation. I joined the Department of Homeland Security after retiring from the Navy in 2011." . . . **Mark Quinlan '85S (MBA)**, an information technology specialist, has been named executive vice president and chief information officer at FirstMerit Corp., a financial services company. Mark serves on the advisory board of Rochester's Simon Business School.

1984 Robert Friedberg has been named head of Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

1985 Brian Carso '90 (MA) writes: "This past fall, **John Puziss** and I flew to Seattle to join **Mark Vossler '89M (MD)** on a backpacking trip along a section of the Pacific Crest Trail in the North Cascade mountains of Washington state. John and I were barely off the plane when Mark distributed U of R T-shirts and declared them the official uniform of the trek (photo, page 52). John is director of technology licensing at Yale University, Mark is a cardiologist and chairman of the department of medicine at Evergreen Hospital in Seattle, and I'm associate professor of history and government at Misericordia University in Pennsylvania."

1986 Emily Swartz Silva has been named a director at the Philadelphia-area firm of Cipperman Compliance Services.



COLLEGE INTRO: Lee Backus '62 (right) greets Leana Gomes, one of nine Bridgeport, Conn., high school students he helped attend a Rochester precollege program last year.

ALUMNI COMMITMENT

Special Summer Session

Looking for ways to help students near his home, an alumnus turns to a campus summer program.

As a high school junior, Saul Almazan wanted to be a psychiatrist but knew little about how to start his educational journey until attending the Pre-College Summer Program at Rochester last year.

Almazan is from Bridgeport, Conn., where one quarter of the population falls under the poverty line. He was one of nine students from the area to participate in the summer program, designed to introduce students to college life, thanks to an unusual commitment from **Lee Backus '62**.

Backus, who lives in the nearby town of Westport, collaborated with Yale-Bridgeport GEAR UP Partnership, a community organization that helps students gain the skills necessary to graduate from high school and succeed in colleges and universities.

"It was a partnership that we were thrilled to forge," says Nadia Ward, the organization's director of urban education and prevention research. "The experience was transformative for our students. It enabled them to experience firsthand how exciting college can be . . . [and] gave them confidence and hope."

Backus initially found it difficult to reach students. Although he interviewed and provided application information to 15 candidates from three high schools, no one followed up.

"It was totally frustrating," says Backus, a newly retired hedge fund portfolio manager and a member of the University's Westchester/Fairfield Regional Cabinet.

It was a testament to the challenges faced by the students. They have high ambitions, but find the cost of higher education to "be an overwhelming obstacle" for them and their families, says Backus, who met the inaugural group last fall.

GEAR UP hopes to send 15 high school juniors to this summer's program, which starts in July.

Backus keeps a copy of a letter one program graduate wrote to the University, explaining that the program helped her "navigate the real world" and announcing her early admission to the University of Pennsylvania.

"These were kids who, for the most part, would be the first person in their family to go to college," says Backus, who also started an endowed scholarship for undergraduates at the University. "For them, this was an eye-opening experience. The response I received was heartwarming."

For his part, Almazan took something else away from the experience: the confidence to go after his dreams. "I definitely have more persistence and determination," he says. "I'm just going to keep doing what I have to do to get what I want."

For more information about Rochester's precollege programs for high school students, visit <https://enrollment.rochester.edu/precollege>.

—Robin L. Flanigan

Flanigan is a Rochester-based freelance writer.